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DEFECTS OF NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN BUDAPEST

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

The attractive exhibits displayed in the sample rooms of the Ministry of Building make an excellent impression on the visitor and demonstrate the capabilities of the Hungarian building industry. An inspection tour of recently completed residential buildings in Budapest, however, revealed a depressing picture. The writer saw in practically all apartments of one building the following defects: the entrance hall has no window and is completely dark; the kitchen is semidark with no window, only a skylight; the parquet flooring is loose; when it rains the water floods the rooms; the doorknobs are broken, or out of order; the wall paint is cracked; the window frames do not fit and are defective; the doors cannot be locked and must be barricaded at night; the gas pipes and the balcony received only one coat of paint; the bathroom tiles are falling off the walls; the tile stove is full of cracks; in one apartment practically an entire wall is loose; during the winter the windows were frozen, the apartment could be aired only by opening the doors and the ice had to be hacked off the windows with an axe; and the chimney does not draw freely, and all apartments are usually full of smoke. -- Tibor Tormay (1)

The writer visited the four-story, 30-apartment residential building at Nagy Lajos Kiraly ut 201, which was completed only a few months ago. Interviews with the tenants brought out the following complaints which the writer verified by inspection: the kitchens are badly equipped and lack chimneys which are important because the gas service breaks down frequently; the ceilings and floors are warped; the doorknobs, made of bakelite, are flimsy and break easily; the walls are only 6 centimeters thick and conversation can be heard in the adjoining apartment; the electric wiring is in a dangerous condition, since the wires are not insulated and are protruding from the walls; some of the apartments are not wired for electric light; the building has only one electric meter, and the tenants don't know how to divide the electric bills; the doors and windows take up practically the entire wall space; some of the crossbeams are hanging down from the ceiling; the bathroom chimneys are in the wrong place. -- Tibor Tormay (2)

SOURCES

1. Budapest, Esti Budapest, 17 May 54
2. Budapest, Magyar Nemzet, 12 May 54

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